

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A3 1. (Original) An optical cable having at least one groove which is spirally provided, the each groove being substantially square in cross section and holding an optical fiber ribbon or a stack of a plurality of optical fiber ribbons within the groove,

wherein an inner width and a height of side walls of the each groove are set greater than a width of the optical fiber ribbon or a diagonal length of the stack which is held into said groove and said optical fiber ribbon or said stack held into said groove is twisted lengthwise in one direction.

2. (Original) An optical cable according to claim 1, further comprising a central member <sup>(1)</sup> and at least one spacer <sup>3</sup> having said at least one groove, wherein said spacer is twisted around said central member spirally.

3. (Currently Amended) An optical cable according to claim 2, wherein said spacer is a one-groove spacer having said one groove being linear lengthwise.

4. (Original) An optical cable according to claim 1, further comprising a central member, wherein said central member is a grooved spacer having said at least one groove on its surface, each groove being spiral lengthwise.

5. (Original) An optical cable according to claim 3, wherein the one-groove spacer is twisted in one direction around said central member.

6. (Original) An optical cable according to claim 5, wherein a twisting pitch length of said optical fiber ribbons is equal to or less than a twisting pitch length of said one-groove spacer.

7. (Original) An optical cable according to claim 3, wherein the one-groove spacer is twisted around said central member while reversing its direction at a given pitch length.

A3 8. (Original) An optical cable according to claim 7, wherein a twisting pitch length of said optical fiber ribbons is equal to or shorter than a pitch length of the one-groove spacer, said pitch length of the one-groove spacer being twice as large as the given pitch length.

9. (Original) An optical cable according to claim 8, wherein the pitch length of the one-groove spacer is not integer times as large as the twisting pitch length of the optical fiber ribbons.

10. (Currently Amended) An optical cable according to claim 4, wherein the groove is a spiral groove being spirally formed in one direction on the surface of said grooved spacer.

11. (Currently Amended) An optical cable according to claim 10, wherein a twisting pitch length of said optical fiber ribbons is equal to or less than a spiral pitch length of the groove of said grooved spacer.

12. (Currently Amended) An optical cable according to claim 4, wherein the groove is an SZ-shaped groove being spirally formed so as to reverse their direction at a predetermined pitch length.

13. (Currently Amended) An optical cable according to claim 12, wherein a twisting pitch length of said optical fiber ribbons is equal to or shorter than a pitch length of the grooved spacer, said pitch length of the grooved spacer ~~begin~~ being twice as large as the predetermined pitch length.

14. (Currently Amended) An optical cable according to claim 13, wherein the pitch length of the grooved spacer is not an integer times as large as the twisting pitch length of the optical fiber ribbons.

15. (Original) An optical cable according to claim 3, wherein said central member is a grooved spacer having at least one groove on its surface, each groove being spiral lengthwise and substantially square in cross section and holding an optical fiber ribbon or a stack of a plurality of optical fiber ribbons within the groove.

16. (Original) An optical cable according to claim 15, wherein an inner width and a height of side walls of the each groove of the grooved spacer are set greater than a width of the optical fiber ribbon or a diagonal length of the stack which is held into said groove of the grooved spacer and said optical fiber ribbon or said stack held into said groove of the grooved spacer is twisted lengthwise in one direction.

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17. (Currently Amended) An optical cable according to claim 3, wherein further comprising two layers of one-groove spacers ~~spirally being twisted around said one-groove spacers~~ which are ~~twisting~~ twisted around said central member.

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